(c) The facility has been provided for testing of soil and water samples drawn from demonstration and on-farm trial plots and also for the samples made available by farmers in the district.

(d) The farmers are being provided the soil and water testing facility on very nominal payment basis.

Proposal for IGIRC for animals

1523. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned any amount for the Indira Gandhi International Research Centre for Animals at Pulivendula, Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the amount would be sanctioned for this prestigious project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Indira Gandhi International Research Centre for Animals is functioning under the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. No funds have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for Meat Development Corporation

1524. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Meat Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon so far; and

(d) if not, by when action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir, Ministry has not received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for Meat Development Corporation.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Cultivation of raw material for bio-fuel

1525. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank's findings have revealed that 83 per cent increase in food prices has taken place in the last four years;

(b) if so, whether 30 per cent hike is attributed to cultivation of raw material for bio-fuel; and

(c) whether this major factor is being taken into consideration while formulating policy for alternative sources of fuels so that people are not pushed to poverty due to availability of reduced land for food crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) World Bank has observed that the price of staple crops have increased leading to 83% increase in world food prices in last three years due to increased demand, poor weather in some countries and increase in the use of land to grow crops for transport fuels. However, in India, yearly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with Base Year 1993-94=100 has increased from 195.3 in 2005-06 to 239.8 in 2008-09 showing an increase of 22.78 per cent.

(c) Yes, Sir. Regarding the anticipated food shortages, the concerns have been taken care of by the National Mission on Bio-diesel, wherein bio-fuel cultivation has been proposed only on wastelands and degraded forest lands, which are not suitable for production of food grains and other agricultural crops. As such, the apprehension of availability of reduced land for food crops due to production of bio-fuel is misplaced.

National Horticulture Mission in Goa

1526. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Horticulture Mission has been launched in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the activities undertaken in the State under the scheme;

(c) the financial assistance given to the State since launching of the scheme;

(d) the area brought under cultivation under the scheme, types of horticulture crops raised and the areas in the State covered under the scheme; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Horticulture Mission has been launched in the State of Goa during 2005-06. The activities undertaken in the State under the scheme include establishment of model & small nurseries in the public and private sector, establishment of new gardens through area expansion of potential horticulture crops, rejuvenation of old and senile orchards, adoption & certification of organic farming, promotion of integrated pest management and integrated nutrient management and human resource development.

(c) A sum of Rs. 618.84 lakhs has been given as financial assistance to the State of Goa from 2005-06 to 2008-09.